

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 INT-05
AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 SCA-01 CU-02 GSA-02 OES-06 ERDA-05
FEAE-00 NRC-05 /131 W
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R 271630Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5027
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LA PAZ 3099

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR BL
SUBJ: REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S OAS SPEECH

REF: STATE 84912

2. EMBASSY COMMENTS ON IMPLEMENTATION:

A. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF AREAS IN WHICH THE USG MIGHT CONSIDER ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. BOLIVIA SUFFERS FROM AN INEFFICIENT AND INEFFECTIVE JUDICIAL SYSTEM WHICH MAKES CRIMINAL PROCEDURE AN UNDULY LONG PROCESS. PERSONS INCARCERATED ON CRIMINAL CHARGES HAVE SUFFERED THROUGH YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT BEFORE RECEIVING SENTENCES. THE USG SHOULD CONSIDER ASSISTING THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM THROUGH FUNDING OF TRAINING, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES, ETC, AIMED AT IMPROVING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN THE JUDICIARY AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION. BOLIVIA ALSO FACES SEVERE PROBLEMS IN TRYING TO RAISE ITS PRISON SYSTEM TO DECENT HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE NO ADEQUATE MEDICAL FACILITIES IN BOLIVIAN PRISONS. THE GOB IS
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ENDEAVORING TO IMPROVE PRISON CONDITIONS, BUT SUFFERS FROM LACK OF ADEQUATE FINANCING AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE. US ASSISTANCE FOR CONSTRUCTING AND EQUIPPING PRISON MEDICAL FACILITIES EITHER DIRECTLY OR VIA THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS OR THE UNITED NATIONS WOULD BE A MAJOR POSITIVE DEMONSTRATION OF OUR SERIOUS INTENTION TO IMPROVE HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS IN POOR COUNTRIES. ON A PERSON TO PERSON LEVEL, CONTINUED SUPPORT OF AIFLD PROGRAMS OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REACH THE ORGANIZED LABOR SECTOR IN BOLIVIA WHICH IS ALREADY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES.

B. THE EMBASSY SUGGESTED IN LA PAZ 996 THAT A US VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT BUFFER STOCK WOULD BE DRAMATIC AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF OUR INTENTION TO COOPERATE WITH LDC'S IN THE COMMODITY FIELD. THE DEPARTMENT HAS INDICATED THAT SUCH A CONTRIBUTION IS BEING CONSIDERED. WE BELIEVE ANNOUNCING AN INTENTION TO REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR SUCH A CONTRIBUTION FROM CONGRESS WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT FOLLOW-UP TO THE SECTION IN THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH ON COMMODITY COOPERATION. CONTINUATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE US POLICY OF CONSULTING WITH THE GOB ABOUT GSA TIN STOCKPILE SALES WELL BEFORE THEY ARE PLANNED IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT SIGN OF A FORTHCOMING US ATTITUDE ON COMMODITIES.

C. IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ON COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR ENERGY, THE EMBASSY URGES THAT PROMPT STEPS BE TAKEN TOWARD NEGOTIATING A BILATERAL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE GOB TO ACCEPT DONATION OF A RESEARCH REACTOR OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AS WELL AS TO COOPERATE IN OTHER RESPECTS IN NUCLEAR ENERGY.

D. FINALLY, WE SUPPORT MEASURES BY THE US TO DIMINISH THE PERCENTAGE CHANCES OF HOSTILITIES EVENTUALLY OCCURING BETWEEN PERU AND CHILE. THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS ENCOURAGING MODERATION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS PURCHASES WILL HAVE LITTLE POSITIVE INFLUENCE, IN OUR VIEW, AS LONG AS PERU CONTINUES LARGE SCALE ARMS PURCHASES FROM THE SOVIETS. IT SEEMS TOO MUCH TO EXPECT NEIGHBORING NATIONS TO ADHERE TO ARMS LIMITATIONS COMMITMENTS NOW THAT PERU APPEARS TO HAVE ACHIEVED SUPERIORITY. WHAT MAY BE MORE APPROPRIATE IS A REAFFIRMATION ON THE PART OF THE US AND OTHER LA COUNTRIES OF AN
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INTENTION TO UPHOLD RIO TREATY PEACE KEEPING MEASURES AND SANCTIONS IN ORDER TO DISCOURAGE THE OUTBREAK OF WAR. WE ALSO SUPPORT THE INITIATIVES RECOMMENDED BY ARA/AND IN ITS MEMORANDUM TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN OF APRIL 14, 1977 ON THIS SUBJECT.
STEDMAN

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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